

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,  
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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 1852.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The fifth Session of the Imperial Parliament was opened by her Majesty in person on the 3rd instant. The speech from the throne, which we subjoin, contains about the ordinary quantity of words, and a trifle less than the ordinary quantity of meaning, for which these mysterious documents are usually celebrated:—

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*  
 "The period is arrived when, according to usage, I can again avail myself of your advice and assistance in the preparation and adoption of measures which the welfare of the country may require.

"I continue to retain the most friendly relations with foreign powers.  
 "The complicated affairs of the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig continue to engage my attention. I have every reason to expect the treaty between Germany and Denmark, which was concluded at Berlin in the year before last, will, in a short time, be fully and completely executed.

"I regret that the war which unfortunately broke out on the east frontier of the Cape of Good Hope, more than a year ago, still continues. Papers will be laid before you shortly, full of information as to the progress of the war, and the measures which have been taken for bringing it to a termination.

"I have observed with sincere satisfaction the tranquillity which has prevailed throughout the greater portion of Ireland; but it is with much regret that I have to inform you that certain parts of the counties of Anagh, Monaghan, and Louth, have been marked by the commission of outrages of the most serious description. The powers of the existing laws have been promptly exerted for the detection of the offenders, and for the repression of a system of crime and vice, fatal to the best interests of the country. My attention will be directed to this important object.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*  
 "I have ordered estimates of the expenses of the current year to be laid before you. I rely with confidence on your loyalty and zeal to make adequate provision for the public service. Where any increase has been made in the estimates of the present year, such explanation will be given, as will, I trust, satisfy you that such increase is consistent with a steady adherence to a pacific policy, and with the dictates of a wise economy.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*  
 "The improvement of the administration of justice in various departments has occupied my anxious attention; and in furtherance of that object I have directed bills to be prepared, founded upon the reports made to me by the respective commissioners appointed to inquire into the practice and proceedings of the superior courts of law and equity. As nothing tends more to the peace and prosperity, and contentment of a country than the speedy and impartial administration of justice, I earnestly recommend these measures to your deliberation and attention.

"The act of 1840, for suspending the operation of a previous act, conferring representative institutions on New Zealand, will expire next year.

"I am happy to believe there is no necessity for its renewal, and that no obstacle any longer exists to the enjoyment of representative institutions by New Zealand. The form of these institutions will, however, require your consideration; and the additional information which has been obtained since the passing of the act in question, will, I trust, enable you to arrive at a decision beneficial to that important colony.

"It gives me great satisfaction to be able to state to you that the large reductions of taxes which have taken place of late years have not been attended with a proportionate diminution of the public revenue. The revenue of the past year has been fully adequate to the demands of public services, while the reduction of taxation has tended greatly to the relief and comfort of my subjects.

"I acknowledge with thankfulness to Almighty God that tranquillity, good order, and willing obedience to the laws, continue to prevail generally throughout the country.

"It appears to me that this is a fitting time for calmly considering whether it might be advisable to make such amendments in the act of the last reign, relative to the representation of the Commons in parliament, as may be deemed calculated to carry into more complete effect the principles upon which that law was founded. I have the fullest confidence that in such considerations you will firmly adhere to the acknowledged principles of the constitution by which the prerogatives of the crown, the authority of both houses of parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people, are equally secured."

The address in the House of Lords was moved by the Earl of Albemarle, and seconded by Lord Leigh. Lord Derby, without thinking it necessary to move any amendment to the address, felt it his duty to put some questions to her Majesty's ministers. The whole of last session had been occupied, almost to the total exclusion of other business, with the discussion of a measure professedly intended to repel the insolent and audacious aggression of the Pope upon the Protestant Faith. He would wish to ask if one of her Majesty's ministers would get up in that house, and say that he was satisfied with the effects of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill; he would like to be told, in what respect the Bill had been effectual, or the aggression, which gave rise to it, repelled. Why, the Bill had been a dead letter; it had been worse—it had been made the target for all kinds of abuse, vituperation, and attack, which had been outrageously launched against it. He wished to be informed whether her Majesty's ministers were so satisfied with the result of their mighty achievement of last session, that they proposed to take no farther steps in the matter, or whether they intended to confess the failure of their law, and to take measures for farther proceedings. He called for explanations regarding the dismissal of Lord Palmerston, and deprecated the intemperate and abusive tone of the public press towards the present ruler of France.

Earl Grey said, that he had never looked to the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill as calculated to give security to the Protestant Faith. The real power of the Papacy was a moral power, a power over the minds of the people—a power which could not be conferred, or taken away by Acts of Parliament. To suppose that the Act of last session could make any difference on the real power of the Pope, or of the Catholic Priesthood, would be utterly to mistake what that power rests upon; he contended that the law had not been a dead letter, but could hold out no hopes of any further measures.

The address was carried without any opposition. In the House of Commons, Sir William Bulkeley,

moved, and Mr. Bonham Carter seconded the address; the subsequent proceedings were very similar to those of the House of Lords, enlivened only by a few explanations from Lord John Russell, and Lord Palmerston, as to the causes which led to the unceremonious dismissal of the latter—explanations whose effect was to make what had before been very mysterious, utterly unintelligible. From what leaked out, it appears that the Queen herself played a very important part in the proceedings; that, not to speak irreverently, the late Foreign Secretary was a little addicted to humbugging his royal mistress, and keeping her in the dark as to the true state of affairs in his department, holding back dispatches, and giving instructions to foreign ministers, without consulting or informing his colleagues. The quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it stands, and any further explanation would only spoil it.

Mr. R. Osborne, in alluding to the agrarian outrages so prevalent in the North of Ireland, recommended ministers to alter the law in that country, so as to allow a majority of a jury to convict.

Mr. E. B. Roche looked upon the horrible crimes referred to, as in part attributable to the culpable negligence of the government, in not bringing the land question in Ireland to a satisfactory issue long ago.

Mr. D'Israeli did not think that the discussion had elicited much information as to the circumstances which had led to the dismissal of Lord Palmerston, and denied that the present was a fitting time for the introduction of a measure for altering the representative system. He was struck with the omission, in the speech from the throne, of all allusions to a famous measure which had occupied much of the attention of Parliament last year. What, he asked, had been the fate of the Bill which the noble Lord, at the head of her Majesty's Government, had persisted in carrying through Parliament? Had it vindicated the outrage offered to her Majesty, and the kingdom? Had it punished or checked Papal aggression? All men knew that it had been treated with derision, and with contumely, which cannot be expressed; and that in Ireland it was publicly announced that it would be treated as a dead letter. In England, by way of showing their contempt for parliamentary enactments, the Bishops were going to have a synodical assembly. Now, he saw no notice of all this in the Queen's speech, and he, therefore, would ask—what were the intentions of the government? Did they mean to have recourse to some other measures, for the protection of the Protestant Faith? or had the noble Lord changed his opinions with regard to the dangers of Papal aggression?

Lord John Russell denied that the Penal Laws had been treated with contempt, and that it was no violation of the Act for other persons to give to the Catholic Hierarchy, the objectionable titles.

After a little more discussion, the address was agreed to.

Lord John's position is not an enviable one; he has plenty of work cut out for him; there is the new Reform Bill, which was to have been brought forward on the 9th inst.—The State of Ireland—National Defences—the Kaffir War—and the hostility of his former colleague; not to mention the opposition he is sure to meet with from the independent Irish Members, and the still more embarrassing support, and "stirring up" that he is likely to receive from the advocates for the repeal of the Maynooth grant, and for stringent measures against the Papists. The following notices of motions have already been given:—

Sir William Molesworth—to call the attention of the House to the state of our South African Colonies.

Mr. Hume—to ask a question, (and very disagreeable questions Mr. Hume does ask,) respecting the intentions of government to alter the rating of the Income Tax.

Mr. Sharman Crawford—to introduce a Bill for the better securing and regulating the custom of Tenant Right.

A dissolution of Parliament, immediately after the Easter recess, is spoken of, as by no means improbable; but there seems to be no immediate prospect of any change in the composition of the Cabinet.

The Arundel banquet was shorn of much of its splendor, owing to the unavoidable absence of the noble guest, who was prevented from attending by a severe fit of sickness; there is no truth in the report that his Lordship intends to resign the representation of the city of Limerick.

The Monaghan Special Commission has turned out a failure. Two men, John and Francis Kelly, have been tried for the murder of Mr. Bateson, but the jury was unable to come to a decision, and was discharged in consequence; the judges have returned to Dublin.

The North of Ireland is still the scene of acts of brutal violence, which all must execrate, but which are clearly traceable to the abominable state of the relations between landlord and tenant, which leaves the latter at the mercy of an unscrupulous and gripping landlord; men, whose little cabins have been pulled down about their ears, who, with their wives and children, have been turned adrift on the wide world, without a shelter, without a crust, are ready for the perpetration of every enormity, and in their madness, violate every law of God, and man. It is impossible to palliate their guilt, but whilst we condemn them, we must remember how much they have suffered; had the peasantry of England or Scotland been treated as the poor peasants of Ireland have long been treated, we should be condemned to read accounts of murders in Sussex and Yorkshire, as brutal as those, which are of so frequent occurrence in Louth and Armagh, and which must, sooner or later, draw down the wrath of God, on those who perpetrate, and on those whose harshness has provoked them.

From France there is little news of importance.

The electoral law has been published, and the President has been giving great dinners, at which the English residents in Paris mustered in great force. The Rev. P. Lacordaire is said to have incurred the displeasure of the President, by some quasi political allusions in one of his sermons, and to have received a hint in consequence, that a change of air would be good for his health.

An attempt has been made on the life of the Queen of Spain; her Majesty fortunately has sustained no serious injury.

Despatches from the Cape of Good Hope, up to the 18th December, have been received; the news is of a more cheering character than usual. The British arms have met with no fresh reverses, and if nothing has been gained, nothing has been lost. Peace seems to be as far off as ever.

Not a twelvemonth has elapsed since, amidst the thunderings of artillery, the clang of trumpets, and the plaudits of the multitude, the whole world was summoned to celebrate, in the opening of the Palace of Industry, the inauguration of a new era in the destinies of the human race—the era of Universal Peace, and Universal Philanthropy. Some few scoffers there may have been, for scoffers there always will be—beighted creatures, unable to keep pace with the progress of an advancing age—who wagged their heads, and looked upon Universal Peace as a great humbug; but the great majority gave way to the pleasing delusion, and men versed in the mysteries of the Apocalypse, solemnly pronounced the Millennium to be nigh at hand. Celt and Saxon, forgetting the rivalry of centuries, were to embrace, and with hearts softened by the benign influences of hardware, were lovingly to lie down together in the Crystal Palace; armies were to be disbanded, navies dismantled, muskets and cross-belts to be cast aside as abominable things; and wholly devoted to the arts of peace, men were henceforward frankly to abandon themselves to the mutual interchange of dry-goods, and brotherly love. Such was the burden of the prophecies, which the prophets of the Manchester school prophesied unto us. A year has not elapsed, and how is the scene changed! how has the fine gold become dim! From one end of the country to the other, dread of an invasion seems to have taken possession of all hearts; from all directions, the din of martial preparation is heard, sounds, at which members of the Universal Peace Society must stand aghast, and the respectable Mr. Cobden be ready to fall into strong convulsions. In a word, the Peace humbug is blown upon—that cant has had its day, and it is useless to attempt disguising the fact, that, in spite of all the fine speeches, and compliments of last summer, in spite of visits of National Guards to London, and of London Mayor and Corporation to Paris, Englishmen and Frenchmen are just as ready to fly at one another's throats, as they were in the days of the great emperor; the only thing that restrains them seems to be, the want of a cause of quarrel; neither knows clearly what he is to fight about. It is in vain for Louis Napoleon to make public profession of his pacific intentions; John Bull has taken it into his head that England is to be invaded, and to such an extent has this idea got hold of him, that we think he would almost be inclined to take it as an insult, if the attempt at invasion were not made. At all events, the public press in England is doing all in its power, to persuade their neighbors across the channel, that nothing would be easier than to land 50,000 men on the coast of Sussex, and to levy contributions on the hop fields of Kent; one writer shows how helpless England would be in the presence of an enemy, that the means of resistance do not exist, that our ships can't sail, nor our steamers carry stores, and the army is disposed of with the summary remark, that British soldiers, though they make "excellent targets, are very bad shots."

That the vicinity of an able, and unscrupulous neighbor, like the present ruler of the destinies of France, is well calculated to excite uneasy reflections, as to the inefficiency of our naval and military establishments, is true; but it is to be hoped that this inefficiency has been a little exaggerated, by the writers upon the state of the National Defences, with the charitable intent of rousing the martial spirit of the nation from its lethargy, and persuading the people to bear with patience, the continuation of the income tax, and such other burdens, as any great increase of the army or navy must inevitably entail; it is upon this ground only, that we can understand why the English journals seem so intent upon magnifying the military resources of France, and decrying their own means of defence, preferring rather to draw a moral from the disasters of Hastings, than to dilate upon the glories of Trafalgar, and Waterloo. If this was their intention, they seem to have been eminently successful. Not a voice is raised in opposition to the proposal for an increase in the army. Joe Hume, even, is mute before the expression of popular enthusiasm; indeed, there can be no doubt of the unanimity of all classes in England at least, as to the propriety of augmenting the National Defences, and putting them on a more effective footing. Nor do the people seem inclined to leave every thing to government; rifle clubs, for mutual improvement, are in process of formation, and throughout the kingdom, the old spirit which defied the Boulogne flotilla, has been again evoked. In spite of the sad change that has been taken place of late years, in the condition of the agricultural population of England—the true bones and sinews of a country,—by which so many of the stout ploughmen, and sturdy yeomen, have been degraded into miserable cotton spinners, shut up in factories, and fattened on gin and mercury—in spite of the demoralising tendencies of the Manchester school, and the growth of a sordid commercial spirit, so unfavorable to the development of military virtues, so incompatible with patriotic or generous sentiments, in spite of all the croakings about the inefficiency

of our armaments, and the decay of the martial spirit in England, it is pretty clear that an invader would meet with a warm reception, and that if, through a series of accidents, he might be able to effect a landing, he would certainly never be able to get back again. In England all is safe, but, how would it be in Ireland?

MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

The second meeting of the Catholic Defence Association, was held on Thursday, the 29th ult., in the rooms of the Society, Rutland Square, and was numerously attended by members of the Association, from all parts of the United Kingdom. The representatives of the Catholic Hierarchy, peerage, gentry, and mercantile classes, were present, and showed, by their deep interest in the proceedings, how firm was their resolve to carry out the objects of the Association, as expressed in the resolutions of the great meeting, held during the autumn of last year. Two subjects, especially, seemed to occupy the attention of the Society: the conspiracy of the proselytisers against the faith of the starving peasantry of Ireland; and the monster iniquity of the Protestant Church Establishment.

In the Address which was adopted—and which will be found on our 2nd page—the people of Ireland are called upon to use every exertion to defeat the machinations of the "Junipers," and to put an end, for ever, to the crying injustice of that system of legislation, whereby Catholics, after having been robbed of their own ecclesiastical property, are compelled to pay for the support of a government church, whose tenets they abhor, and whose ministers they despise. We abridge from our Irish papers the report of the proceedings:—

"On the motion of Lord Gormanstown, seconded by Alderman John Reynolds, M.P., His Grace, the Most Rev. Paul Cullen, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of all Ireland, was called to the Chair.

His Grace, the Archbishop of Armagh, in returning thanks for the honor conferred upon him, impressed upon all the members the duty of union, so that all the Catholics of the empire might be cemented into one compact body, pursuing the same objects, with one heart, and as one man, unswayed by any low and paltry motives of self-interest. He next proceeded to the consideration of the motives which had called the meeting together. A conspiracy had been formed, to undermine the faith of the people of Ireland, and to rob them of the precious, the only inheritance which they had received from their fathers—to erase the only memorial that had made the name of Ireland glorious in past ages, and which still makes that name to rank honorably amongst the nations of the earth, and to induce Irishmen to renounce that faith, which, preached to them by St. Patrick, still connected them with the centre of unity, and maintained them in communion with two hundred millions of Catholics, spread all over the world; High Churchmen, and Low Churchmen, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Infidels and Methodists, have leagued themselves together for this work. His Grace next drew a parallel between the hostility to which Catholics were exposed, from the Pagans in the second and third centuries, and that to which they are subjected at the present day, from the Protestants of England. In reading the apology of Tertullian, one would imagine that the writer was rebutting the charges brought against the Catholic Church by the orators of Exeter Hall, or the itinerant preachers that infest the towns and villages of Ireland in the nineteenth century; the nickname of Romanists, which heretics try to fasten on Catholics, is the counterpart of the attempt of the Emperor Julian, to substitute the appellation of Galileans for that of Christians; and it was by the same means, that Protestants now employ, namely, the poisoning the stream of knowledge at its fount, by substituting a purely secular, for a religious, education, that the apostate endeavored to subvert the faith of the early Christians. "Man is weak," continued His Grace, "and prone to evil;" nothing is easier than to induce him to quit the steep and rugged path of virtue, for the broad and easy road of vice. No wonder, then, that in some instances, a few starving peasants, worn down by famine and disease, have been betrayed into acts of hypocrisy and apostasy, and have sold, or pretended to sell, their souls for vile pelf. In the town, too, some corrupt characters, whose God was their belly, have fallen victims to their concupiscence, and avaricious spirit, immolating themselves, and their children, on the altar of Moloch: the drunkard, the impure, the dishonest, men and women, who had no religion, have thus become the trophies of our modern Pharisees.—But there was this to be remarked—that whilst the men, who are converted to the Catholic Church, are either reclaimed from sin by their conversion, or reformed more exemplary in their conduct, than they were before, those who leave the Church, generally renounce the practice of morality, when they abandon their faith, and cast themselves headlong into a career of vice and debauchery; not one person distinguished for the practice of his religion—not one, of even moderate information, or respectability of conduct, is to be found amongst the converts to Protestantism.—As Catholics, it is our duty, to make every exertion and sacrifice, to protect the poor, from the arts of the proselytisers, and to preserve them from the danger incurred by denying Christ before men; it is, therefore, the duty of all Catholics to raise their voices, and to denounce those seminaries of iniquity, the proselytising schools, in which the bitter hatred against Catholicity is inculcated." His Grace pointed out the gross injustice that is done to Catholics, by compelling them to pay for educational establishments, in which non-Catholic principles are instilled into the breasts of the children of Catholic parents—to the crying iniquity of compelling the Catholic children of Catholic soldiers and sailors, to attend heretical schools, and to read the corrupt version of the Holy Scriptures, the catechisms, and other heretical works, which are used therein. To show the injustice of which Catholics are made the victims, His Grace instanced the case of Milne's Free School, in the town of Forthabers, in Elginshire. The founder, Mr. Milne, a Catholic gentleman, who amassed a fortune in the United States, bequeathed \$100,000 for the establishment of this school: with some trouble, the legacy was secured, and an Act of Parliament vested it in the hands of Protestant trustees, who devoted it, not in accordance with the intentions of the donor—for Catholic purposes—but in the establishment of a